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ciation correspond more nearly to those of the American Association prior to the past twenty years. Our association then held its meetings in the summer, and excursions and entertainments were emphasized, which led to a larger attendance of amateurs and perhaps to more local interest. The American Association has now become primarily an association of societies rather than of individuals. No other country holds meetings at which so many scientific men are in attendance or at which the special programs of scientific papers are so extensive. It may, however, be that the more technical organization of the meetings has led to giving less attention to the work of bringing scientific research and its importance for the nation to the attention of a wider public. In a democracy science must depend on a wide appeal for its support and for recruits. The situation in England indicates the increasing difficulties as science becomes more highly specialized and scientific men become more completely absorbed in their special work. It should, however, be possible to apply scientific methods not only to scientific research, but also "to obtain a more general attention to the objects of science."

Professor W. A. Herdman is succeeded in the presidency of the association by Sir Edward Thorpe, emeritus professor of chemistry in the Imperial College of Science, London. The meeting next year will be at Edinburgh.

THE SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF THE OCEAN

As an example of the discussions at the meetings of the British Association that before the section of zoology on the need for the scientific investigation of the ocean, as reported in *Nature*, may be taken. Dr. W. A. Herdman, the president of the meeting, is professor of oceanography at Liverpool and his

address on this subject naturally led to a fuller discussion with a practical object in view.

In opening the discussion, Professor Herdman pointed out the need of investigation under two heads—the scientific need and the industrial. He proposed that there should be a great national oceanographical expedition—that is, another *Challenger* expedition, fitted out by the British Admiralty, and embracing all departments of the science of the sea investigated by modern methods under the best expert advice and control. Such an expedition would require long and careful preparation, so even though the present time may seem to some inopportune to press such an undertaking, if this suggestion is received with favor by oceanographers, it might be wise to form a preliminary committee to collect information and prepare a scheme.

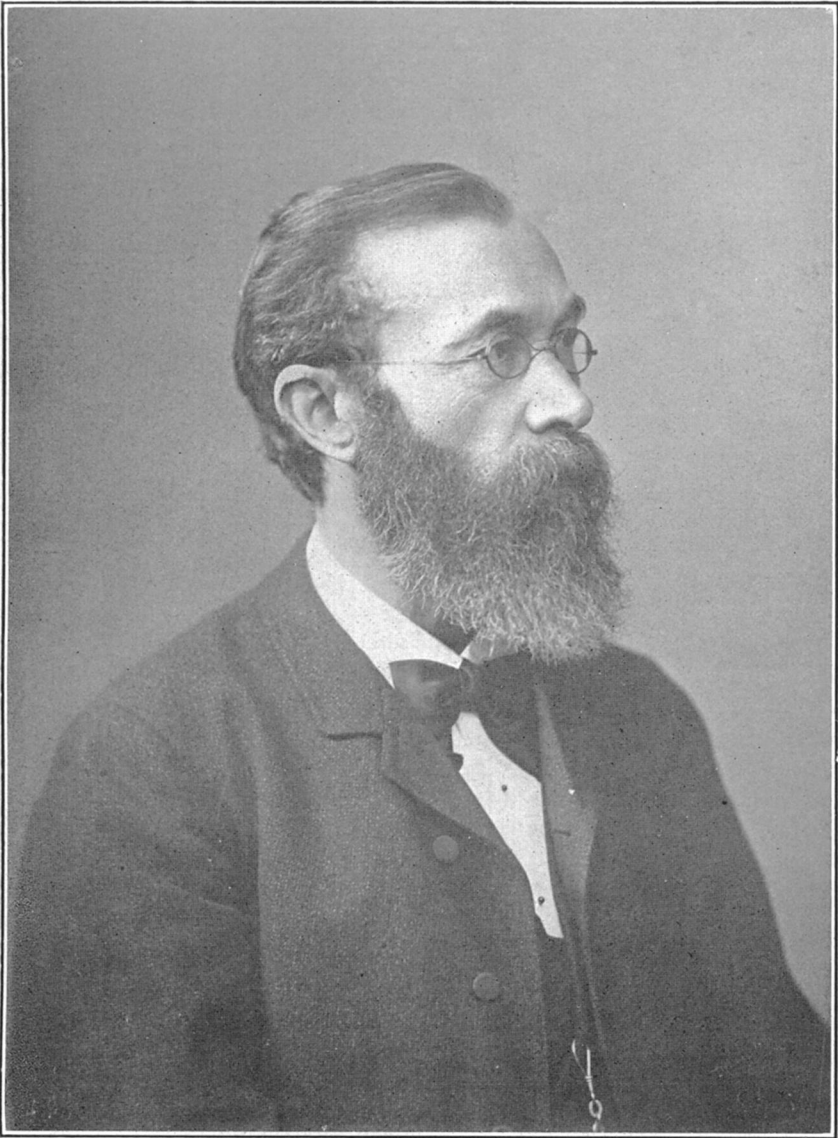
In the further discussion Professor J. Stanley Gardiner, Dr. E. J. Allen, Mr. C. Tate Regan and others took part, including Professor C. A. Kofoid from the United States and Professor J. E. Duerden from the Union of South Africa. Mr. F. E. Smith, director of scientific research at the admiralty, stated that his department had considered the question of a new *Challenger* expedition, and was of opinion that such an expedition was required, and he felt sure that the admiralty would take its share in the organization.

At the close of the discussion a resolution was unanimously agreed to pointing out the importance of urging the initiation of a national expedition for the exploration of the ocean, and requesting that the council of the British Association should take the necessary steps to impress this need upon the government and the nation. On the following day, at the committee of recommendations, this resolution also received vigorous



JAMES WILSON

Secretary of Agriculture in the cabinets of Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft, previously professor of agriculture in the Iowa State College and director of the Experiment Station, who died on August 26, at the age of eighty-five years.



WILHELM WUNDT

Professor of philosophy in the University of Leipzig, leader in the foundation of psychology as a science, who died on August 31, in his eighty-ninth year.

support from other sections, *e. g.*, those dealing with chemistry, physics, geology, and geography, in all of which, as well as in zoology, investigations are required which could be undertaken by such an expedition. The general committee of the association recommended the council to appoint an expert committee to prepare a program of work and to consider the personnel and apparatus required.

At its last two meetings the Pacific Division of the American Association has given special attention to deep-sea investigations and further emphasis was placed on the subject by the Pan-Pacific Conference held last month at Honolulu. It would be desirable in the present international situation for the United States to cooperate with Great Britain and its Dominions in a thorough scientific exploration of the seas.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the deaths of Joseph Paxon Iddings, formerly geologist of the United States Geological Survey and professor of petrology in the University of Chicago; Samuel Mills Tracy, agronomist of the United States Department of Agriculture; Dr. Walter Faxon, until recently in charge of mollusca and crustacea in the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard University; Ellis L. Michael, zoologist of the Scripps Institution for Biological Research of the University of California; Benjamin Smith Lyman, geologist and mining engineer of Philadelphia; John Percy, professor of mathematics at the Royal College of Science, London; Sir Norman Lockyer, director of the Solar Physics Observatory, London, and editor of *Nature* from its establishment over fifty years ago, and Wilhelm Wundt, professor of philosophy at the University of Leipzig, where he established the first laboratory of psychology.

DR. GEORGE ELLERY HALE, director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, has been elected one of the twelve foreign members of the Società Italiana delle Scienze, in succession to the late Lord Rayleigh.—Professor Raymond Pearl, of the Johns Hopkins University, has been decorated by the King of Italy as Knight of the Crown of Italy.—Professor R. Roux, director of the Pasteur Institute at Paris, has been awarded by the United States government the Distinguished Service Medal for especially meritorious and distinguished service which was of great consequence to the American Expeditionary Forces.

COLONEL F. F. RUSSELL has resigned from the Medical Corps, U. S. Army, to take charge of the newly organized Division of Public Health Laboratories of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.—Dr. Charles Hubbard Judd, head of the department of education of the University of Chicago and director of the school of education, has been made chairman of the department of psychology to succeed Professor James R. Angell, who resigned to accept the presidency of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

YALE UNIVERSITY has received from an unnamed graduate a gift of \$3,000,000 to the general endowment of the university, contingent upon additional gifts of \$2,000,000 by next January, exclusive of those through the alumni university fund. The gift is made to meet increased faculty salaries.—Cornell University has received a gift of \$500,000 from Mr. August Heckscher, of New York City, for the endowment of research. The income of the fund created by Mr. Heckscher's gift will be used to maintain research professorships and to provide facilities for scientific work.